



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

It's All About Education



Summer education intern Michelle Antenesse worked with site historian Pam Sanfilippo on the development of new traveling trunks for schools, including this one about school in the 19th century.

Ulysses S. Grant NHS now has several education programs available. Michelle Antenesse, a graduate student at California State University, developed the "School Days of the Past" traveling trunk for 3rd-5th graders, and a trunk for 3rd-12th graders that explores the expansion of voting rights. Her on-site program facilitates learning about Grant's experiences at White Haven and his important role during the Civil War.

Kellie Novel, our first Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, is a 1st grade teacher at Shaw

School in St. Louis. She developed a program for 1st-5th graders on Grant and White Haven, focusing on character education. All students at Shaw and Lexington Schools participated in the program. We also produced our first *Reading History!* flier that uses history to teach reading and comprehension skills for 3rd to 5th graders. Classroom sets are available for free.

All programs meet curriculum standards. For more information contact Pam Sanfilippo at (314)842-1867 Ext. 224.

President Grant Takes a Stand for Education

In 1870, Ulysses S. Grant crystallized his view of, and support for, free public education. He appealed to “people everywhere to see to it that all who possess and exercise political rights shall have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge which will make their share in the Government a blessing and not a danger.” In part, Grant’s view arose from the Enlightenment principles of his childhood: democracy was only possible when those participating were literate and educated.

Fighting Southern opposition, Grant repeatedly entreated Congress to take action regarding the illiteracy rates of former slaves. In his 1875



Schools for newly freed African Americans flourished during Reconstruction. Image: Harper’s Weekly, 1866, Library of Congress.

State of the Union address, he proposed a Constitutional Amendment to require free public schools in each state and tax church property to pay for them, and to prohibit the use of public funds for religiously affiliated schools.

Grant encouraged the introduction of bills to Congress in 1872 and 1879 (the latter after his tenure as president) to fund education for blacks through federal land sales.

Despite setbacks, Grant’s vision of what American education ought to be remains one of the most successful parts of Reconstruction. By 1876 in the South, about 70,000 black children attended school, compared to none in 1860. Southern white children benefitted as well, with around 50,000 attending school in 1876, compared to only about 20,000 sixteen years earlier. By 1900, 40 states adopted measures similar to those Grant proposed in 1875.

A Look at Frederick Douglass and His Home, Cedar Hill



In his later years, Frederick Douglass served as U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia and Minister-General to the Republic of Haiti. Image: Library of Congress, ca. 1865-1880.

When thinking of Grant-related sites, many enthusiasts are quick to name Civil War battlefields or other Grant residences. But what about the home of a fellow advocate for civil rights, Frederick Douglass?

A contemporary of Ulysses Grant, Douglass was born a slave and escaped to freedom. Self-educated, he was acclaimed for his eloquence and dedication to the cause of liberty and the value of education. As a lecturer, newspaper editor, and leader in the abolitionist movement, he promoted the acceptance of

black troops in Grant’s Union army. During Reconstruction Douglass served as a diplomat and supported Grant’s policies of protecting, enfranchising, and educating former slaves. In the campaign of 1872, Douglass insisted, “We will not find a candidate equal to General Grant.”

Douglass’ Washington D.C., home, Cedar Hill, was a place to call home like White Haven was to the Grants, and Douglass family members lived there from 1877 until 1903. The NPS site offers a virtual tour of the home at www.nps.gov/frdo.

Spotlight on the Park: Science in the White House

In the 1870s Admiral Daniel Ammen, a friend of Grant's, delighted young Jesse Grant by buying him scientific instruments:



a telescope, a microscope and a camera. In his memoir, In the Days of My Father General Grant, Jesse noted his devotion to his scientific investigations: "[T]he roof of the White House was my goal on every clear night, and every other available hour was devoted to the microscope or camera."

Both Ulysses and Julia were involved in Jesse's forays into science. Ulysses would join Jesse on the roof as they "searched the heavens" with the telescope night after night. Julia's limited eyesight prevented her from experiencing the wonders revealed by the microscope for herself, but Jesse says she would sit with him for hours as he investigated with the microscope and described what he saw to her.

In the park museum today, a microscope of a similar vintage and model represents the Grants' involvement with their children's education and their belief that learning was not limited to books and a classroom.

Meet the Great Grant Volunteers



These generous people help ULSG in countless ways. Back row: Dick Nixon, John Samson, Kathy Lange, Kay Thurman, Bill Meyer, Randy Harnish; Middle row: Tom McBrayer, Dave Herries, Ginny Downey, Julia Moeller, Paul Haag, Sharon Bourgeois, Loretta Brandt, Ray Hoffstetter; Front row: Lois Herries, Jeannine Cook, Ida Boehlow. Not pictured: Michelle Antenesse, Elisabeth Bliese, Matt Bosch, Bob Champlin, Kathy Keetch, Walt Kleinhaus, Tom Rung, Ralph Tyson, Anne Williams

Ask anyone at Ulysses S. Grant NHS and they will tell you we absolutely could not function without our wonderful volunteer staff. With a wide range of knowledge and talents, our volunteers put on programs, give house tours, help operate the visitor center, and assist in maintenance projects throughout the year.

Several of our volunteers have been with the site since its creation. After racking up a total of 2,844 volunteer hours worked this year alone, we all celebrated at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in October. If you are interested in joining the crew, contact Karen Maxville at (314)842-1867 Ext. 225.

Kids' Corner: Voting Rights Game

Who is eligible to vote in presidential elections today? Did you know that it took many years and several Constitutional amendments to expand voting rights to what they are now? In Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site's new traveling trunk on voting rights, you can learn the answers to these questions and more by playing the Voting Rights game. See if you can match the Amendment with the group who gained the vote as a result of its passage.

1870: 15th Amendment
1920: 19th Amendment
1971: 26th Amendment

a. women
b. 18-20 year olds
c. African American males

Key: 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b)



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Upcoming Events

- January 26: Julia Grant's 183rd birthday
- February: Black History Month
- February 12: Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission National Teach-In, where students in classrooms across the country can participate in a live webcast about Lincoln on his 200th birthday
- March: Women's History Month

Did you know?

The education of Fred, Buck, Nellie, and Jesse was a jumble of tutors and schools as their father's career took them across the country.

Julia taught the children when they were young at White Haven. Early in the Civil War, Ulysses oversaw Fred's schooling at the front, while a cousin tutored Buck and Nellie in St. Louis. When

the Grants moved east, Fred and Buck attended a boarding school in Burlington, New Jersey. Nellie also went to school, however all three were frequently absent to visit their father. After Grant was elected president, Nellie and Jesse attended school regularly in Washington, D.C.

Despite their haphazard schooling, all four children

were well-educated and worldly. Fred graduated from West Point in 1871. Buck completed degrees at both Harvard and Columbia Law School. Nellie attended finishing school and Jesse attended college briefly, but left to become a student of the world as he joined his parents on their world tour.

Information from [The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant](#).